

STEPHANIE M. HINDS (CABN 154284)
Acting United States Attorney
MICHELLE LO (NYRN 4325163)
Chief, Civil Division
SAVITH IYENGAR (CABN 268342)
Assistant United States Attorney

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055
San Francisco, California 94102-3495
Telephone: (415) 436-7200
Fax: (415) 436-6748
savith.iyengar@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for the United States of America

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO. 4:19-cv-04281 KAW
)	
Plaintiff,)	STATUS REPORT AND PROPOSED ORDER
)	
v.)	
)	
BTC-e, a/k/a CANTON BUSINESS CORP.,)	
)	
and)	
)	
ALEXANDER VINNIK,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

Plaintiff United States of America (the “United States”) respectfully submits this status report and proposed order pursuant to the Court’s Order dated July 23, 2021. ECF No. 23. The United States continues to work diligently to serve defendants BTC-e, a/k/a Canton Business Corp., and Alexander Vinnik (collectively, “Defendants”) abroad under the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters (“Hague Service Convention”), and respectfully requests that the Court allow the United States to file another status report in ninety (90) days regarding its efforts to complete service on Defendants.

As the United States has previously conveyed to the Court, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) exempts “service in a foreign country” from its time limits. *See* ECF No. 22. Nevertheless, the United States has been attempting to promptly serve Defendants abroad. *Id.* After the United States filed its

1 complaint on July 25, 2019, and because Defendant Vinnik was located in Greece at that time, the
 2 United States began the process of translating the complaint and summons into Greek under the Hague
 3 Service Convention. *Id.* In January 2020, after the United States submitted a Request for Service
 4 Abroad of Judicial or Extrajudicial Documents required by the Hague Service Convention, but before
 5 the Greek Central Authority completed service, Defendant Vinnik was extradited to France. *Id.* The
 6 United States began the process of re-translating the appropriate documents into French and effectuating
 7 service on Defendants in France. *Id.* The United States expects to complete service on Defendant
 8 Vinnik in France through appropriate authorities, including by following the process set forth by the
 9 Hague Service Convention. *Id.*

10 Since the date of the United States' prior status report, the United States certified to this Court on
 11 August 5, 2021 that the United States had transmitted its request for service abroad and all required
 12 documents to the French Central Authority pursuant to the Hague Service Convention. *See* ECF No. 24.
 13 The United States thereafter inquired with the French Central Authority regarding the status of the
 14 request, and was notified on October 14, 2021 that the request "was sent to the relevant French
 15 jurisdiction last week (on 10-06-2021)," and that the United States could expect to receive more
 16 information regarding service before the end of the year. Accordingly, the United States respectfully
 17 requests that the Court allow it to file another status report in ninety (90) days, or by January 17, 2022,
 18 regarding its efforts to serve Defendants.

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 20 Respectfully submitted,

21 STEPHANIE M. HINDS
 22 Acting United States Attorney

23 Dated: October 18, 2021

24 By: /s/ Savith Iyengar
 25 SAVITH IYENGAR
 26 Assistant United States Attorney

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28 ///

~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff United States of America shall file a Status Report by January 17, 2022.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 21, 2021


HON. KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge